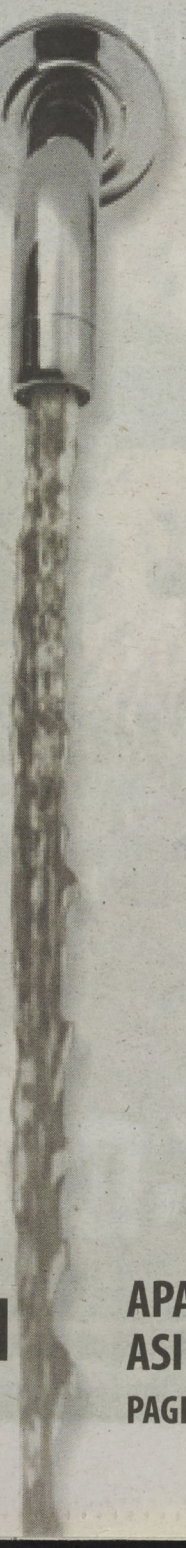
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SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE

SAC STATE HAS KNOWN ABOUT EXCESS LEAD IN ITS DRINKING WATER FOR NEARLY ONE YEAR, YET ONLY INFORMED THE CAMPUS IN JANUARY.

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HOBO JOHNSON AND THE LOVEMAKERS
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TRIPLE JUMP RANKED 4TH IN NATION
PAGE 15



SAC STATE SAYS
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FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA



Sac Modern is a collegiate hip-hop dance team at Sacramento State that performs at campus events and in competitions. Watch the video to learn more about group.



Sacramento State senior pitcher Justin Dillon made history after providing the Hornets their first Division I no-hitter in a 2-0 shutout win over Northern Kentucky on Feb. 23 at John Smith Field.



This week's #PhotoOfTheDay featured the kiddos of the Children's Center and their art collection that will be displayed at the University Union Gallery until March 16. The Thursday reception allowed the children to participate in finger-painting, color taping and crayon drawing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EMERGENCY HOUSING: Sacramento State announced that it is going to begin providing emergency shelter and meals to students in need, and is planning on expanding the program going forward. The Student Emergency Housing Program will give one male and one female student at a time a month to live in a residence hall, and meal vouchers good for two meals a day. The housing program was created by Student Affairs, Housing and Residential Life, Associated Students, Inc. and University Enterprises, Inc.

To stay up to date with news, go to statehornet.com/news

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CORRECTIONS

In Issue 19, Volume 71 of The State Hornet, the following corrections are listed:

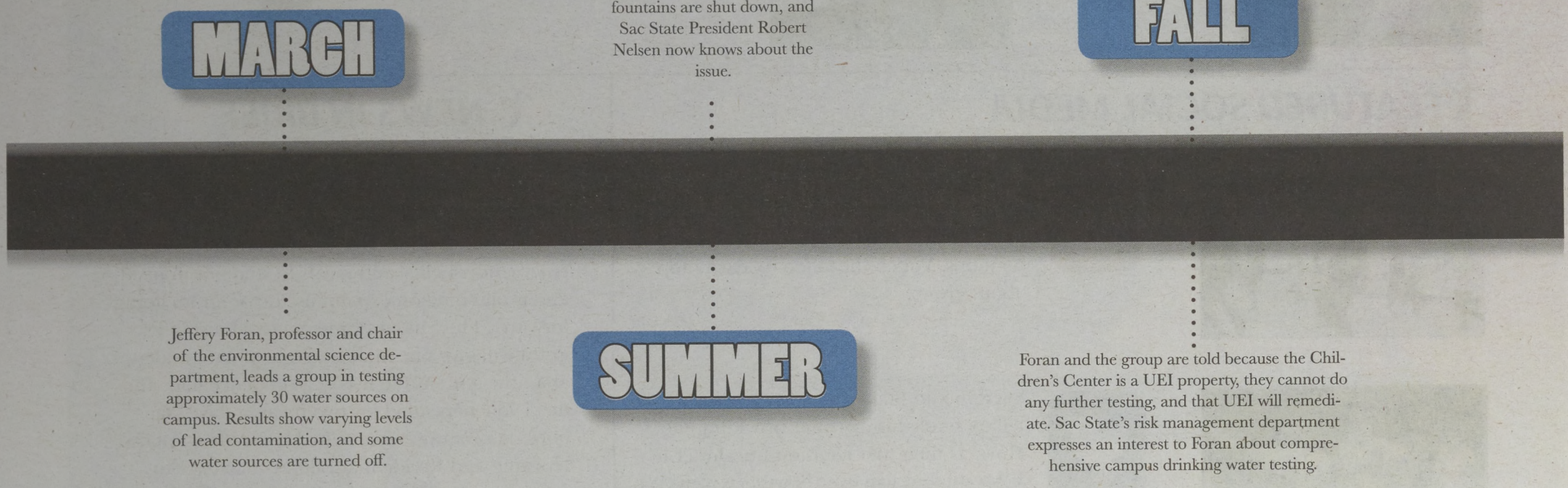
On page 5, Diana Rykun's name was misspelled as "Ryukin."

On page 8, Sulaiman was not introduced as Muslim Student Association President Noor Sulaiman.

We regret these errors.

Cover image by Pierce Grohosky

ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE HORNET AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE SACRAMENTO STATE JOURNALISM PROGRAM, THE COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTRATION, STUDENT BODY OR SQE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE STATE HORNET IS COPYRIGHTED AND CANNOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR PART WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE STATE HORNET. READERS WHO NOTICE AN ERROR IN THE STATE HORNET MAY SEND CORRECTIONS TO **EDITOR@STATEHORNET.COM.** FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT **ADS@STATEHORNET.COM**



TESTING THE WATERS

ADMIN HAS KNOWN ABOUT LEAD FOR NEARLY ONE YEAR

Kameron Schmid
@kameronschmid

The issue of water contaminated with lead coming from Sacramento State's drinking fountains and faucets goes back longer than the university had previously indicated, and a second phase of testing is set to begin.

Though the campus community was first notified of potential lead contamination in drinking water on January 25 of this year, the university was aware after a small sample size test in March of 2016 that lead contamination was a possibility.

Jeffery Foran, a professor and chair of Sac State's department of environmental studies, said that he and a group of colleagues and students first tested approximately 30 drinking water sources on campus in March 2016, now a year ago.

Following that round of testing, Foran, a professional toxicologist with a Ph.D., sought and was given permission to test for lead contamination in the water sources of the ASI Children's Center, which he called a "susceptible population and a sensitive subpopulation."

Multiple findings of lead contamination, including in the Children's Center and other buildings, then prompted shutdowns of contaminated fountains and faucets.

Foran said he does not know what happened to the water sources in the Children's Center, as he was told by the university that University Enterprises, Inc. — not Sac State — owns the Children's Center, and would not allow Foran's group to return, though he was told they would remediate the situation.

It was also at this time that Foran was told Sac State President Robert Nelsen was aware of the situation, and Foran was meeting regularly with members of the risk management department on campus.

Foran said that following that, in the fall semester of 2016, risk management and Steve Leland, the director of environmental health and safety, indicated to Foran that they would welcome him and his team to do more comprehensive testing. After Foran submitted a proposal, Sac State provided "about $4000" funding for such testing to the group, according to Parker.

This account clashes directly with the earlier assertion of Leland, who said multiple times that the testing of 449 sources over winter break was solely based in the study group's interest.

The results of that widespread testing have been known since the first week of the spring 2017 semester. 58 water sources had lead levels above five parts per billion, the bottled water limit set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Those were shut down by Sac State out of an "abundance of caution," said both Leland and Jill Parker, the interim senior director for risk management services and chief risk officer.

27 water sources were above 15 parts per billion, which is the EPA action level, meaning they legally must be shut off.

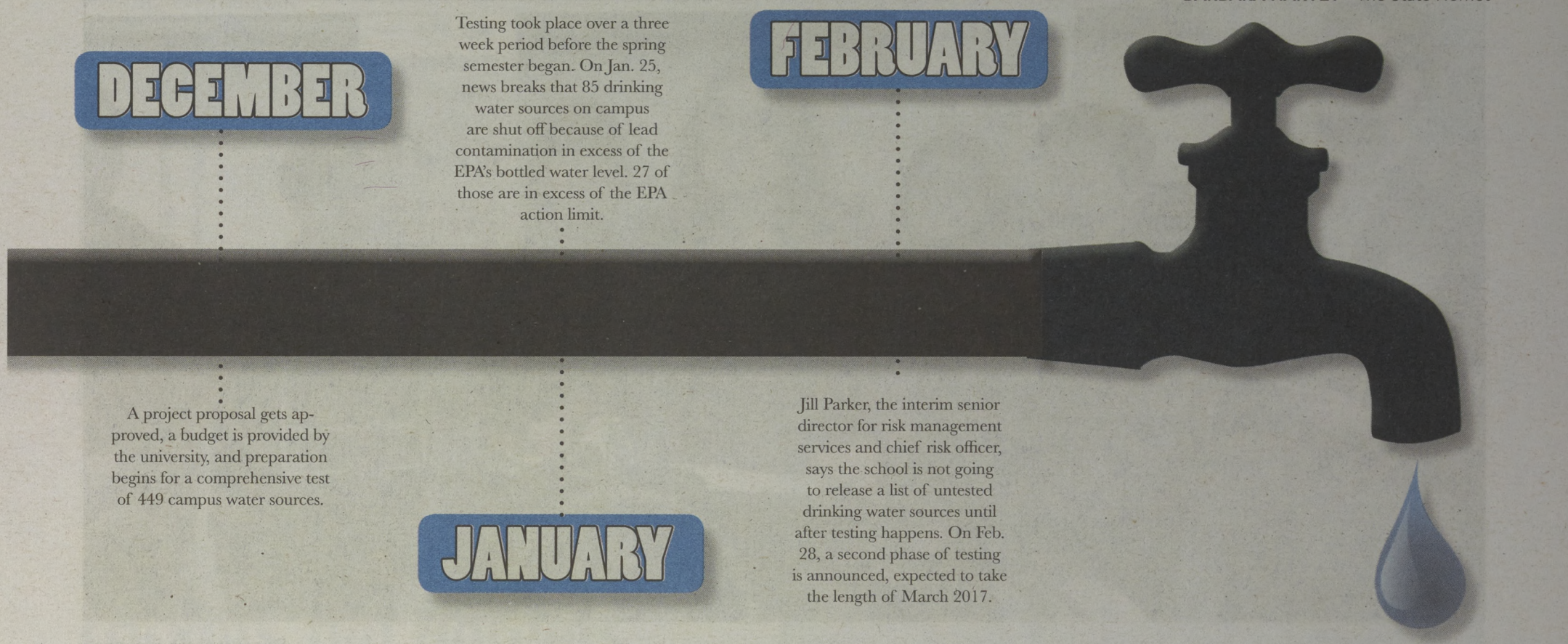
Additionally, the university sent out an email last week saying that after recent testing, all food establishments on campus have water sources under the EPA action level, but the final report on specific lead amounts have not come back. That testing was completed by UEI, as it owns the restaurants.

Now, according to Foran, the university has chosen to disregard his advice and forgo any more testing by his group of colleagues and students, for reasons he does not understand.

Foran said the only responsible standard to use in his view is the California Public Health Goal, .2 ppb. He claimed to have communicated this importance to the university multiple times, without success.

"(Sac State) has focused solely on the 5 part per billion number, and at times on the 15 part per billion number, neither of which is designed to protect public health," Foran said. "There's a long history of how the FDA comes

BARBARA HARVEY - The State Hornet



up with those levels and public health is only one of a variety of considerations."

Foran said the state of California established a goal of a .2 ppb level of lead in drinking water "based on very sound and very good scientific information," and that it is, if observed, virtually guaranteed to present no danger to the public.

"There are individuals who are drinking water on this campus (with) unacceptable concentrations of lead," Foran said.

Added on to this assertion is that reportedly 10 percent of drinking water sources on campus are currently untested, and unlisted to the public. Parker said the administrators working on the issue know where these sources are, but don't want to list them until they are tested.

"In my view, it is not prudent to assume a problem when you don't know one exists," Parker said. "You're making an assumption, that in this one area, that same set of circumstances would apply to others. That's a pretty big leap."

According to Foran, knowing where the untested sources are isn't easy because the testing group was never provided with a comprehensive list of water sources on campus in the first place; the group made one on its own, and suspected it to be incomplete from the beginning.

> "It's unconscionable to think that students are still drinking water from those fountains or faucets, whatever they have in those buildings, that have not been tested."
>
> **- Jeffery Foran**
>
> *Professor and chair of environmental studies department at Sac State*

Foran's biggest concern of the untested sources is the American River Courtyard residence halls. When the testing group arrived there, it was told by officials that the suite dorm rooms could not be tested because residents were currently living there.

With that knowledge, Foran said Parker's quote about the untested sites floored him.

"I was stunned by that, because all of our data in its entirety suggests that there are problems there, and there's no reason to think those dorms are different," Foran said. "They should've been sampled, quite frankly, immediately after we found such widespread lead contamination.

"It's unconscionable to think that students are still drinking water from those fountains or faucets, whatever they have in those buildings, that have not been tested."

Parker said that all of the untested sources, including dorms and suites in the American River Courtyard, are set to be tested in the second phase, which is beginning today and being administered by CIH Services.

Parker, who joined Sac State in her role this February, said that she wants the remainder of the process to be handled at a professional standard, with an impartial testing agency. That is why, after Alex Spataru was hired by Leland to consult the university, another group, CIH, was hired by Parker after Spataru's recommendation came in.

Foran said that after speaking to Spataru during his time on campus, he came away with the expectation that Spataru would recommend that the university place water filters on every drinking fountain on campus.

Sac State, under the direction of Parker, is choosing not to do so just yet without more comprehensive water testing.

Parker said at the time of the hiring that her goal was "using all professional standards in the profession of sampling, for occupational exposure, to make a definitive determination of what the water levels are first."

Foran believes that this step being taken by Parker and the university is unnecessary for multiple reasons.

"We used standard EPA certified technology and techniques; we followed EPA certified quality assurance quality control programs, and the laboratory that did our analysis is in a EPA certified laboratory," Foran said. "There's nothing they would do differently than what we did. Why the university wants to do that is beyond me."

The original group that tested the 449 drinking water sources has remained ready and willing to comprehensively test, according to Foran. His initial expectation was that they would be asked to do the second phase of testing, but the request never came. So the group waited, and so did Foran; an expert in every sense who has been told he is no longer needed.

Parker maintains that an impartial group of certified testers need to be brought in for the remainder of the process, and that the priority needs to be finding where on campus there are drinking water sources above the action level.

"I think it's great that there is a goal that is lower than what the current regulatory standard is, but there has to be practical ways of achieving that goal, and until there are, that's why we have regulations, to set the bar for what the expected community standard is," said Parker.

Foran feels differently.

"To me, the bigger issue here is that there are something on the order of almost 380 fountains and faucets on this campus that have lead concentrations above the California Public Health Goal," Foran said.

"And that's a profound issue."



Screenshot via Facebook

Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton, and the leaders of the California Faculty Association (CFA) announce the Student Protection Act on Facebook Live on Feb. 21.

New bill seeks to halt tuition increases

CFA leaders to support Student Protection Act

Raul Hernandez
@raul_hdez04

A bump on the road was placed in the possibility of a tuition increase when Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton, and the leaders of the California Faculty Association (CFA) announced the Student Protection Act on Feb. 21.

If passed, the bill would place a moratorium on increases in tuition and fees in California's public community colleges and state universities.

The Student Protection Act would require that the amount of tuition and mandatory systemwide fees not be increased beyond the amounts that were charged as of Dec. 31, 2016, until the completion of the 2019–20 academic year.

This act was proposed not only because of a possible tuition increase of $270 on the table for the 2017-18 academic year, but also to keep the state faithful to the 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education, which states that public higher education "shall be tuition free to all residents."

"Our students are struggling not only to pay their rents, to be able to work, pay for food and other essentials, but also go to college," Quirk-Silva said.

She provided numbers to back it up. In the past 30 years, tuition has increased 932 percent. Thirty years ago CSU students would have had to work 199 hours at minimum wage to pay tuition and fees for an academic year at a CSU; in 2015, students have to work 682 hours at a minimum wage job to cover those costs.

> "Our students are struggling not only to pay their rent, to be able to work, pay for food and other essentials, but also go to college."
>
> **- Sharon Quirk-Silva**
> *CA Assemblywoman, D-Fullerton*

Kevin Wehr, president of the CFA chapter and a sociology professor at Sacramento State, said tuition increases mean that first-generation college students have trouble not only with financial needs but also with gaining "cultural capital."

First-generation college students face issues such as gaining support, knowing who to talk to about college and how to even attain money for higher education.

While there are means such as financial aid to help students pay for school, there is still some misleading information about how financial aid and loans work.

The cost of a college degree is much more than tuition. The cost of attendance also includes books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses — which cost an average of $24,000 annually in the CSU system.

Margarita Berta-Avila, a professor of bilingual and multicultural education at Sac State and the vice president of the CFA chapter, discussed how financial issues are not translating to academic success for students and are a cause for concern for future students.

"They are working multiple jobs and dealing with more stress than they should be, yet their fees continue to rise," Berta-Avila said. "We are asking students to pay more for less and what is interesting to me is that the disinvestment has occurred as demographics have shifted to a far more diverse student body than 30 years ago.

Quirk-Silva and the other leaders of the CFA hope that the Student Protection Act will have an effect on the tuition increase vote that board of trustees will take in March.



ANDRO PALTING - The State Hornet

Sacramento State ASI Election Officer Isaac Curtis talks during a presentation at the Walnut Room in the second floor of the University Union on Feb. 23.

ASI election forums draw crickets, not Hornets

Ricardo Coronado
@TheStateHornet

On three separate dates at election workshops held by Associated Students, Inc. meant to provide information on how to run for ASI elections, hardly anyone showed up.

Nobody attended the first workshop held on Feb. 17, which may have been due to a combination of the day's heavy rain and the fact that it was a Friday, when most students don't have classes or head home for the weekend.

The next workshop was on the following Monday, Feb. 20. Only two students showed up to that workshop.

Isaac Curtis, the current ASI election officer, presented the workshops and said that ASI promotes in variety of ways.

"We emailed different clubs, we go to a large majority of the campus organizations that exist and we give them fliers and we talk to different employees," Curtis said.

Curtis said that the poor attendance didn't necessarily mean that there's a lack of interest in student government.

"Because we are still within the developmental stages within the current elections season we still have a lot that we are working towards making it better," Curtis said.

The workshops presented resources on ASI employment, volunteering and — most prominently — elections. Those who attended the workshop agreed that it was helpful.

Janay Yeartie, a recreation, parks and tourism major, said that she learned "how little things add up to a bigger thing in the future."

"I thought that was interesting," she said.

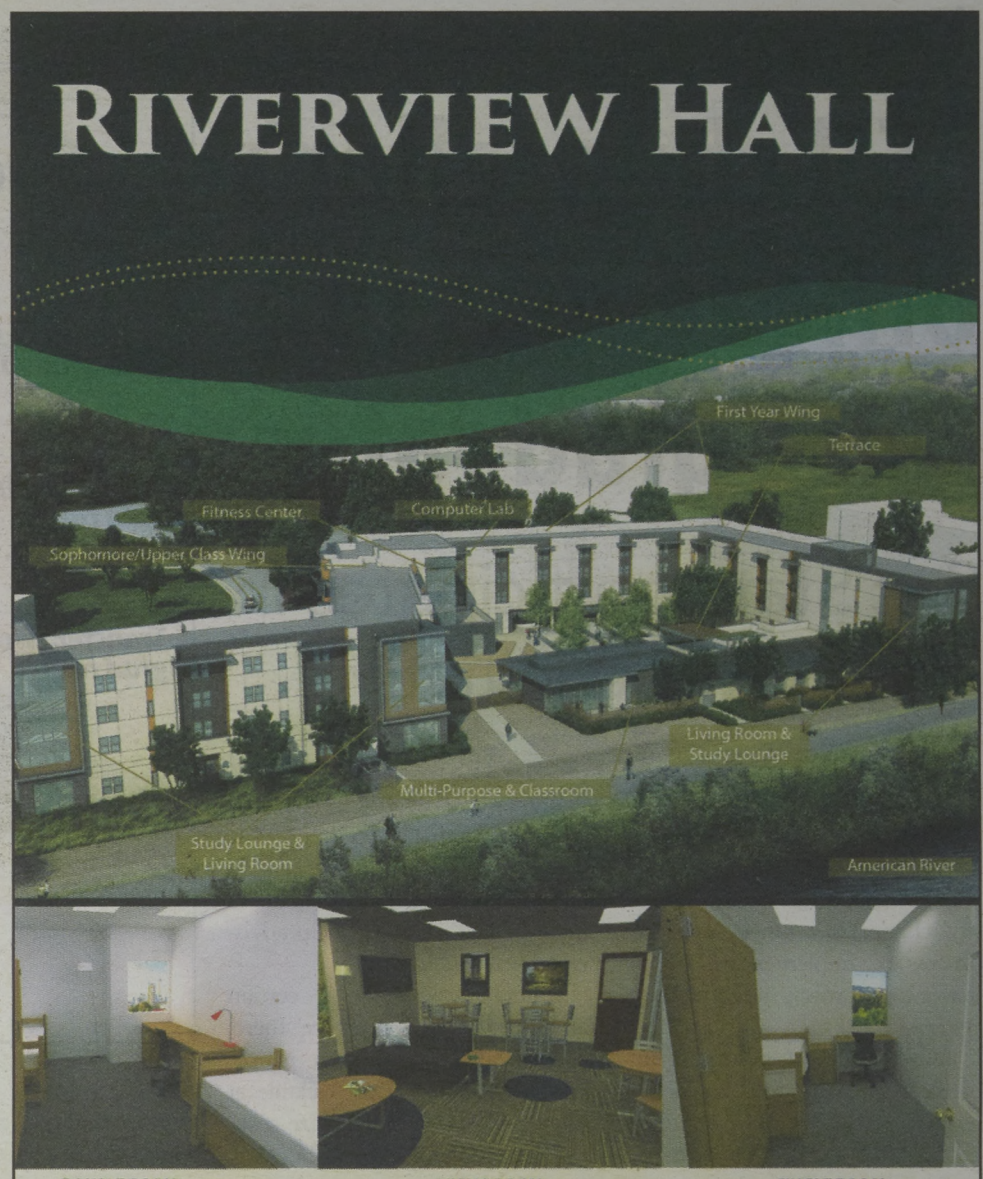
Only one student attended the third workshop, which was on Feb. 23.

Lisa Dalton, a Board Associate for ASI, expressed that these events have been promoted since the fall semester, with six workshops completed. Dalton also pointed out that ASI has done special presentations with a variety of campus partners — such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center — among 24 others.

Whatever their reason for not coming, students still have something to gain from these workshops, said Curtis.

"I think it's incredibly important for students to be able to get involved," Curtis said. "I think that ASI is incredibly accessible to a large percentage of students and that is something to the benefit of current individuals that are on the board and are working day in and day out to make ASI accessible."

Curtis said he hopes that ASI conducts more workshops, as elections are right around the corner. Interested candidates must complete an application by March 10.



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CSU chancellor's office seeks to raise grad rates

Sac State participates in system-wide initiative

John Ferrannini
@jferrnews

The California State University chancellor's office is in the process of implementing an initiative to improve graduation rates system-wide.

The plan — Graduation Initiative 2025 — outlines a series of goals that the CSU hopes to reach by that year.

Sacramento State has drafted plans specific to the school, including raising the freshman four-year graduation rate from 9 to 30 percent (it is 19 percent system-wide, according to the most recent data), raising the freshman six-year graduation rate from 46 to 60 percent, raising the transfer two-year rate from 26 to 38 percent and the transfer four-year rate from 71 to 81 percent.

James Minor, a former U.S. Department of Education official, has been hired by the CSU to oversee the plan and its implementation. He said that one of the steps that needs to be taken is a streamlining of the information available to academic advisers.

"A student walks into an office with the expectation that the person that is occupying that office is going to help them, that they're trusted, that they're going to get good, sound, comprehensive advice," Minor said. "This is not that (academic advisers) are intentionally being negligible. I think it stems from the compartmentalization that happens."

Minor said that putting all the student's information — details about their intent, degree path and financial aid — would help advisers to better help them.

"There has to be a certain amount of data structure there, and we also have to have people who are on staff and available at the times when students are seeking help," Minor said. "There are capacity issues: any one human being is going to be able to manage so many students successfully. But it's making sure advisers are in place who are equipped to help students."

According to a September 2016 draft student success plan, Sacramento State hopes to reach its goals by implementing a number of so-called "'intrusive' advising strategies," including contacting students with over 80 units to help them "finish in four" and potentially providing incentives for taking classes during the summer, winter intersession, at night and on weekends.

Offered incentives will include priority parking, campus employment, reduced fees and summer housing.

Francis James Dragna, the executive director of university initiatives and student success, said that these and other incentives — including coffee cups and a letter from the president — are meant to show the school's appreciation to students who are trying to finish on-time.

"The incentives are not provided to have people graduate in four (years)," Dragna said. "We use those incentives in order to maintain the relationship of the students to the faculty and administration. It's a way to build trust."

Dragna added that in the future the school will be offering a $500 discount per three unit hours to students successfully working toward graduation in four years, and that the school expects to reach the 2025 graduation goals within the next four years.

President Robert Nelsen said that the school is adding advisers and added 370 classes in the fall and 170 in the spring so that there would be more room for students in the courses they will need to graduate.

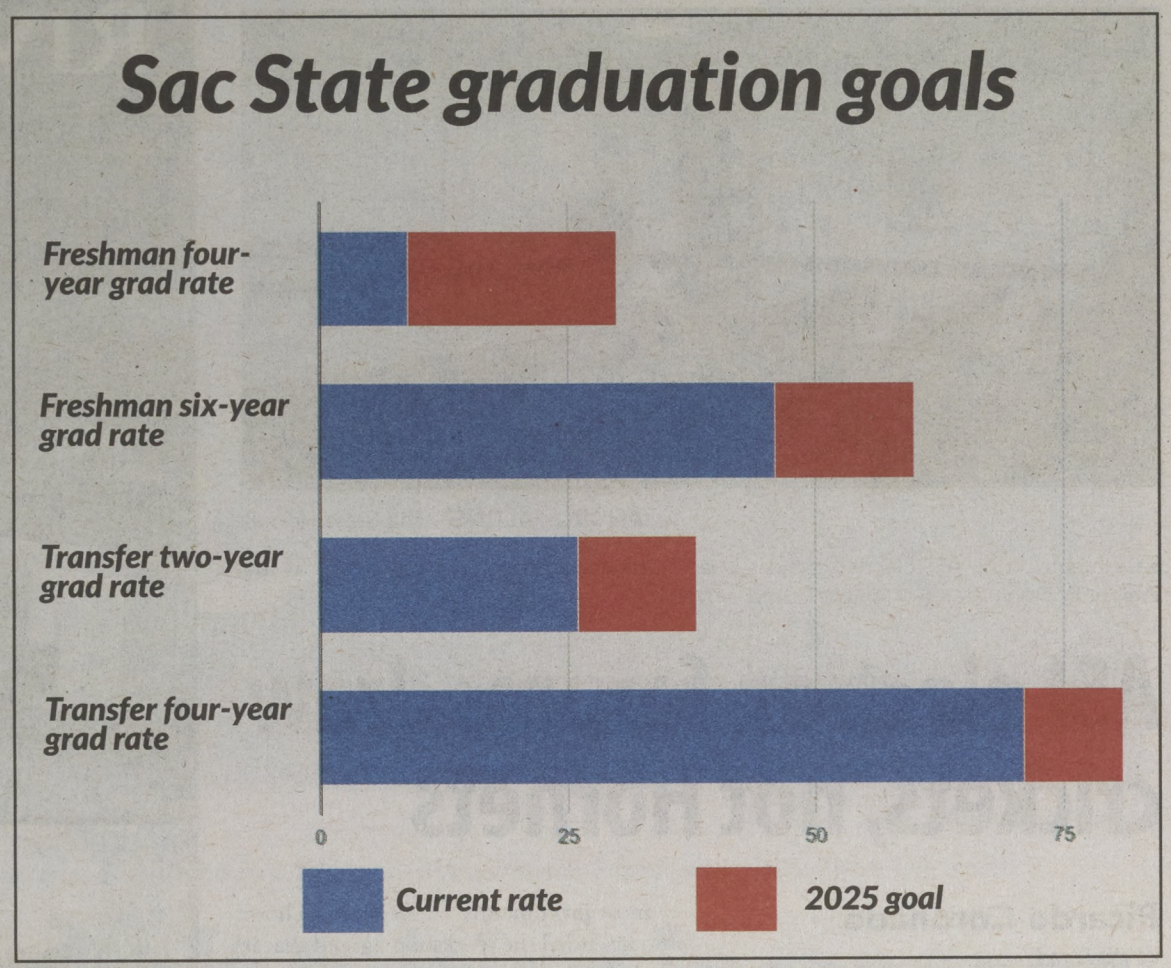
"We will definitely achieve the goals set out in the Graduation Initiative because we have a plan … that will make 'Finish in Four' and 'Through in Two,'" said Nelsen in an email. "Sac State, especially our faculty, cares about our students, and we believe that our students can and will succeed."

Minor said that other issues that have kept the graduation rates lower than the CSU would like are students not taking full unit loads and a lack of preparedness among incoming freshmen, which leads students to take remedial classes at the start of their college careers.

"The percentage of students who come to the CSU prepared academically for college level coursework — and the percentage that are prepared culturally and financially — is lower than we would like," Minor said. "A lot of students struggle academically, are assigned to developmental education courses, and begin their college career in pre-baccalaureate courses that may not count toward their degree."

Ultimately, Minor said that the entire CSU community will have to do better in order for the goals to be reached.

"This is going to require all of us to up our game with respect to student success and degree completion," Minor said. "It will require the CSU to behave differently. Quite frankly, our students are going to have to behave differently."

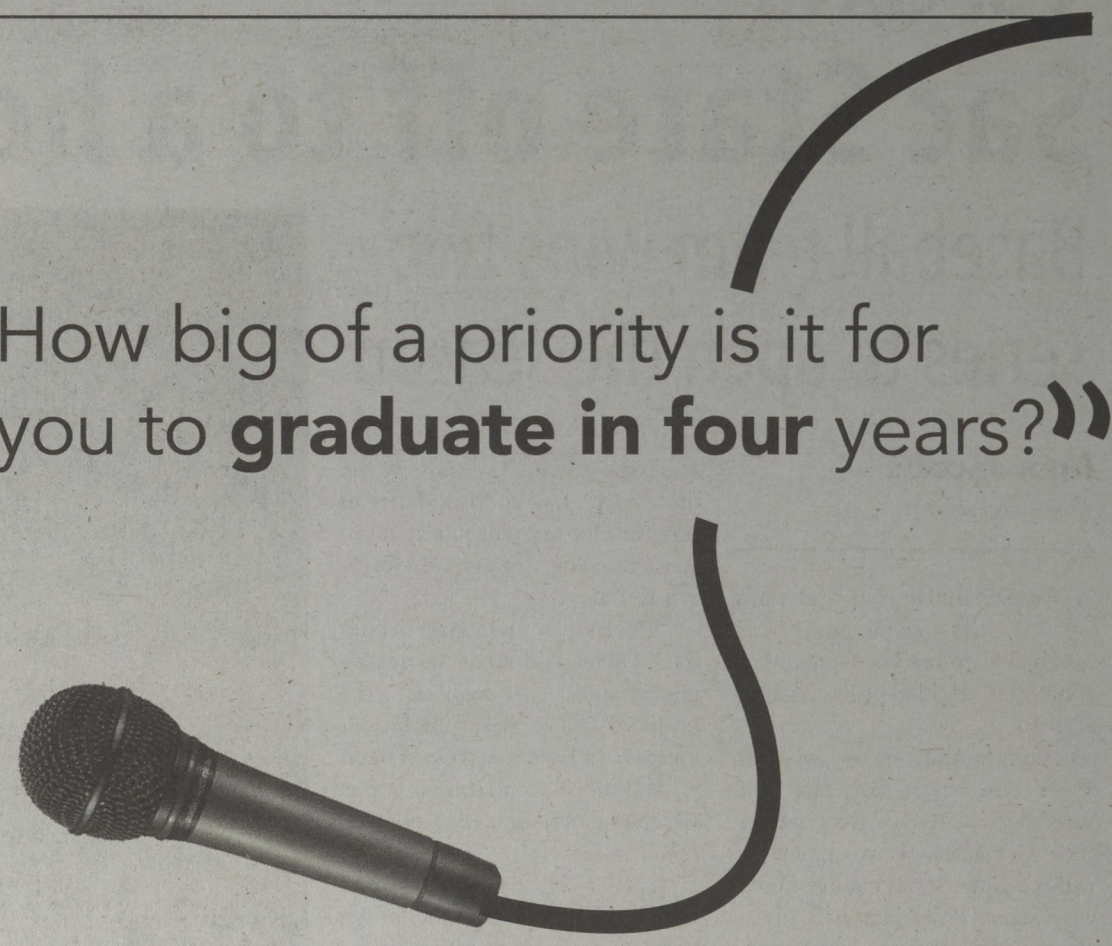


JOHN FERRANNINI - The State Hornet

As part of its participation in the CSU-wide Graduation Initiative 2025, Sacramento State has drafted a series of target graduation rates that the school hopes to achieve by that year.

> **"A student walks into an office with the expectation that the person that is occupying that office is going to help them, that they're trusted, that they're going to get good, sound, comprehensive advice."**
>
> **- James Minor**
> *CSU senior strategist for Academic Success and Inclusive Excellence*

SAC STATE SAYS



Sacramento State is implementing Graduation Initiative 2025 in an attempt to raise the school's graduation rates by that year. We decided to ask a few Sac State students how much of a priority it is for them to finish in four years. To join the conversation, post your thoughts online with the hashtag ***#SacStateSays***

John Ferrannini
@jferrnews

#SacStateSays



"I'm a transfer and this is my fifth year in college. Personally, it's not that big of an issue. I'm going to be working for the rest of my life so I might as well enjoy the short time I have in college."

- Megan Turner
Liberal studies



"I'm a freshman — they practically bait you into finishing in four years. Personally, I don't like school so finishing in four will get me out of here more quickly."

- Alyssa Noriega
Child development



"It's my number one priority. School gets you where you want to be at the end of the day. The sooner you do it, the sooner you're in the field you want to be in."

- Welver Suarez
Gerontology



"It was a huge priority for me. I'm graduating in four and one-half years and I tried my best to keep it under five. I didn't start working until this year."

- Olivia Oydna
Social science



"I'm a third year on track to graduate in four years. It was a big priority to get through, but what I've noticed is that a lot of people are working and so they don't always take a full course load."

- Chris Matulich
Government

Sac State off to a hot start in 2017

Baseball team wins two series to open the season

Max Jacobs
@maxjacobshornet

Despite initial cold and rainy weather, the Sacramento State baseball team has been heating up John Smith Field to begin the 2017 season.

After hosting its two opening series this season, Sac State has won five of its six total games. The Hornets took two games of a three-game series against Power Five school Washington State — despite rain delays — and swept the four-game series over Northern Kentucky from Feb. 23-26.

Weather dampened the excitement of opening night under the lights after the first game of the season was postponed against Washington State to the following afternoon as a part of a doubleheader on Feb. 18.

"It was a disappointment for the players — to have the lead up and anticipation of opening day — then for it to get rained out," Sac State coach Reggie Christiansen said. "I was more worried about getting here on Saturday (and) getting the field ready to play two games."

The Hornets won the first game of the doubleheader against the Cougars 10-2 after right-handed senior pitcher Justin Dillon allowed only one hit. Sac State won the second game 6-4, but failed to complete the sweep after falling 4-3 despite freshman pitcher Parker Brahms only allowing one run on four hits in six innings during his collegiate debut.

The series with Washington State was supposed to be a four-game affair, but heavy rain came back and the game was canceled. Clear skies returned on Feb. 23 as Dillon — who struck out a career-high 13 batters — threw the first NCAA Division I no-hitter in program history en route to a 2-0 series opening win against Northern Kentucky.

"I believe in these guys behind me," Dillon said about his team's performance throughout the no-hitter. "All of these guys lay out for me — I have that trust in them — and they have that trust in me, which makes both of our jobs that much easier."

On Feb. 24, the Hornets came from behind with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning to tie the game 5-5 off of an RBI base hit from senior shortstop Trent Goodrich. Junior center fielder Ian Dawkins then ended the game with a walk-off to defeat Northern Kentucky 6-5 in extra innings.

"My only goal in that at-bat was to put the ball in play," Dawkins said. "I know (Northern Kentucky's) defense had made a few errors earlier in the game — last night they did as well — put pressure on the defense and see what happens."

The next night, Sac State delivered a 10-0 blowout win over the Norse — featuring a seven inning, zero runs allowed, nine strikeout performance from Brahms, and a grand slam in the sixth inning from sophomore right fielder James Outman.

In the series finale, the Hornets recovered from two separate four-run deficits to win the outing 12-11, clinching the four-game sweep over Northern Kentucky — despite allowing 16 hits.

Much of Sac State's success can be credited to its pitching staff — which delivered performances by Dillon (2-0, 0.56 ERA), Brahms (1-0, 0.69 ERA) and sophomore Alex Dentoni (3-0, 1.29 ERA). The Hornets pitching staff is unique in that every single pitcher on the roster is right-handed.

"I'm a bad recruiter of left-handers," Christiansen joked regarding the one-sided pitching staff. "We have addressed it — it is something that is certainly not by design — but it does force our right-handed pitchers to develop a changeup so they can get (left-handed batters) out."

The Hornets will travel to Washington for a four-game series against the Huskies (4-3) Thursday at 6:05 p.m.

"My friend at Santa Clara played against (Washington) so he has been giving me some input," Brahms said about his thoughts on starting against the Huskies. "I'll be trying to work the inside corner."

Sac State (6-1) will return to John Smith Field after the Washington series to take on Penn State in a three-game series from March 9-11.





MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

Top, Sacramento State senior pitcher Justin Dillon throws the first no-hitter in program history since the Hornets joined Division I baseball after striking out a career-high 13 batters at John Smith Field on Feb. 23. Bottom, the Sacramento State baseball team swept the four-game series over Northern Kentucky from Feb. 23-26.

> "I believe in these guys behind me. All of these guys lay out for me — I have that trust in them — and they have that trust in me, which makes both of our jobs that much easier."
>
> **- Justin Dillon**
> *Sacramento State right-handed senior pitcher*

ANDRO PALTING - The State Hornet

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HOME GAME SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL			MEN'S BASKETBALL		
Feb. 2	**Thursday // 7:05 pm**	**Eastern Washington**	**Feb. 9**	**Thursday // 7:05 pm**	**Weber State**
Feb. 4	Saturday // 2:05 pm	Idaho	Feb. 11	Saturday // 7:05 pm	Idaho State
Feb. 16	**Thursday // 7:05 pm**	**Montana**	**Feb. 23**	**Thursday // 7:05 pm**	**Northern Arizona**
Feb. 18	Saturday // 2:05 pm	Montana State	**Feb. 25**	**Saturday // 7:05 pm**	**Southern Utah**
Mar. 1	**Wednesday // 7:05 pm**	**North Dakota**			
Mar. 3	**Friday // 7:05 pm**	**Northern Colorado**			

Green Army VIP GREEN ZONE games are in BOLD


WE ARE
GREEN
ARMY
THE GR
IT'S GONNA
THREEEE
#STING


GREEN ZONE
A BE RAIN
EEZEES!!!
GERSUP

Don't just watch the game; be a part of the game!

Cheering instructions for the Green Army VIP GREEN ZONE

- Visiting team introductions: Hold the newspaper up in front of your face (shake the paper in your hands, act uninterested)
- Visiting team head coach: When his/her name is said, shout "WHO CARES!"
- Home team free throws: Raise both arms with "Stingers Up" - after a made free throw yell, "Whoosh!" while dropping your arms quickly to your sides
- Visiting team free throws: Make a buzzzzzzzzzing noise. During the second half (when they are shooting in your direction) hold up Dot Page and rotate in a circular motion. On the second free throw, hold up the Hornet Page and move it left to right and right to left, in sync with the yell leader
- Fight song: When the fight song is being played, be sure you are standing and clapping along - feel free to sing along if you like (words to the song will be on the video board)
- There will be times during the game when the yell leaders will lead you in a "DEFENSE" chant or other chants - please follow their direction when they are leading the group

Remember...

- Have fun!
- Be loud!
- You are the home court advantage!

Triple-jump team ends season ranked No. 4 in NCAA

Matthew Nobert
@mnobert2020



The Sacramento State men's triple-jump team, left to right, Gathunga Ndirangu, Mohamed Abdullah, Jah Strange and Darius Armstead ended the indoor track and field season ranked No. 4 in the country with an average of 14.78 meters.



> "When we step in the building, they're going to say, 'Oh, those are the Sac State jumpers.' Hopefully we get to the point where we are striking fear into other jumpers."
>
> **- Mohamed Abdullah**
> *Sacramento State junior triple jumper*

The Sacramento State men's triple-jump team has leaped out of the shadows and is in the spotlight as the fourth-ranked squad in the nation.

Sac State freshman Jah Strange, senior Gathunga Ndirangu, juniors Mohamed Abdullah and Darius Armstead — who now holds the Sac State indoor record in the triple-jump with a mark of 51-02.75 at the Big Sky Indoor Championships on Feb. 25 — make up this lineup of four jumpers that has an average of 14.78 meters together.

This triple-jump foursome ranks among the likes of Nebraska (No. 1 with an average distance of 15.54 meters), Oklahoma (No. 3 with an average distance of 15.31 meters), Florida State (No. 5 with an average distance of 15.10 meters) and Louisville (No. 8 with an average distance of 14.93 meters).

"All these big schools in the West like USC, UCLA — you expect them to be up there and not Sac State," Abdullah said as the track and field team ends indoor season and continues into outdoor competition.

Sac State expects to jump in the 16-meter range as Ndriangu, who missed time due to stress reactions in his shins, and Abdullah, who missed time with a hamstring and hip flexor injury, weren't at full health when the triple jumpers achieved the No. 4 spot on Feb. 27. The unit should be fully healthy around the middle of outdoor season, according to the foursome.

"We're not even close to our potential," Abdullah said after practicing to improve his season-best jump of 48-04.75 at the Big Sky Indoor Championships. "That's the crazy thing — it's like what could we actually do when actually healthy? I see ourselves as being number one."

This amount of success might give some teams a sense of pressure to remain in the top 10, but Ndirangu — who posted an individual season-best 49-08.50 at the Big Sky Indoor Championships — would rather focus on The Hornets' roles as underdogs in Division I track and field.

"It kind of pushes you — you see what the other schools are doing (and) it's like we should be right there," Ndirangu said. "A lot of people don't think about Sac State — they think we're trash."

All four members of the team discovered their abilities in track and field during high school and in a short amount of time were able to increase their talents together at Sac State through communication and trust.

"It's like a brotherhood," Abdullah said. "We know it's all on us so we stick together when times get rough. I feel like that's what gives us the upper hand — we talk and communicate with each other really well."

Strange, who posted an individual season-high of 49-11.25 at the Big Sky Indoor Championships, hopes to continue building this level of success that the program is generating when the other three are gone and he is the leader.

"For the people that are staying and the people that are coming (we've) just got to keep building," Strange said. "This is the start of a legacy and hopefully once these guys are gone I'll be the last one to keep it going."

Sac State's No. 4 ranked triple-jump team was able to impress again after Armstead took first place, Strange finished in third, Ndirangu took fourth and Abdullah placed fifth in their event at the Big Sky Indoor Championships in Idaho on Feb. 25.

"When we step in the building, they're going to say, 'Oh, those are the Sac State jumpers,' " Abdullah said. "Hopefully we get to the point where we are striking fear into other jumpers."

Hornets leave the Nest for final two regular-season games

"We know that we can beat every team in conference as long as we stick to the game plan. We trust our coaching staff and we have to trust ourselves and continue to be aggressive."

- Justin Strings

Sacramento State men's basketball junior forward

Andre Newell
@andre_newell24

With two games remaining in the regular season, the Sacramento State men's basketball team edges closer to the Big Sky Tournament in Reno on March 7.

Big Sky Conference competition started rough for Sac State (11-16, 8-8 Big Sky) as the team dropped its first three games — with two home losses to Northern Colorado and North Dakota and another at Portland State. The Hornets snapped their three-game losing streak with two straight wins against Northern Arizona and Southern Utah, but failed to continue the momentum.

Despite a 4-4 record in February, Sac State coach Brian Katz said he believes the team has improved in terms of consistency.

"I think that we will bounce back," Katz said. "I don't think that losing back-to-back games (on Feb. 18 and Feb. 23) was a step backwards for us in terms of going back to the drawing board."

Sac State has won four of its last six games and is averaging a total of 72.1 points per game — while only permitting 68.8 points per game — and shooting 46.7 percent from the field over the course of those six games.

This puts the Hornets at seventh place in the Big Sky standings, which means that the team is unlikely to be able to secure the fifth-place spot that would have ensured them a bye in the first round of the tournament.

Sac State will next play the No. 1 team in the conference — North Dakota (18-8, 13-3 Big Sky) — which is riding a five-game winning streak. The Hornets last played the Fighting Hawks in a losing effort on Dec. 31 at the Nest after Sac State rallied from a 21-point halftime deficit before falling 90-82 in overtime.

"I don't think that we followed our (scouting report) as well that game," senior forward Nick Hornsby said. "We weren't ready or as aggressive as we have become so I think that plays a huge factor into it."

The Hornets will conclude the regular season against Northern Colorado (9-17, 5-10 Big Sky) — a team that will not participate in the Big Sky Tournament due to NCAA violations. However, this will be a test for the Hornets as they look to even up the season series after losing 69-53 to the Bears on Dec. 29 at the Nest.

"Last time we played (Northern Colorado), they kind of baited us into doing things that we didn't want to do," senior center Eric Stuteville said. "I think that we have gotten progressively better since then. Going into that game we have to play to our strengths and away from our weaknesses"

Stuteville is enjoying his best season of his career with a 13.3 points per game average in conference play and a shooting percentage of 63.1 from the field — the highest shooting percentage in the Big Sky.

Sac State will look to gain more momentum in its last two games after defeating Southern Utah 86-76 on Feb. 26 at the Nest. Junior forward Justin Strings expressed confidence in his team's ability to finish the season strong heading into the Big Sky Tournament.

"We're very confident in what we can do," Strings said. "We know that we can beat every team in conference as long as we stick to the game plan. We trust our coaching staff and we have to trust ourselves and continue to be aggressive."

The Hornets will travel to Grand Forks, North Dakota at 7 p.m. Thursday to play the Fighting Hawks at the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center.



MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

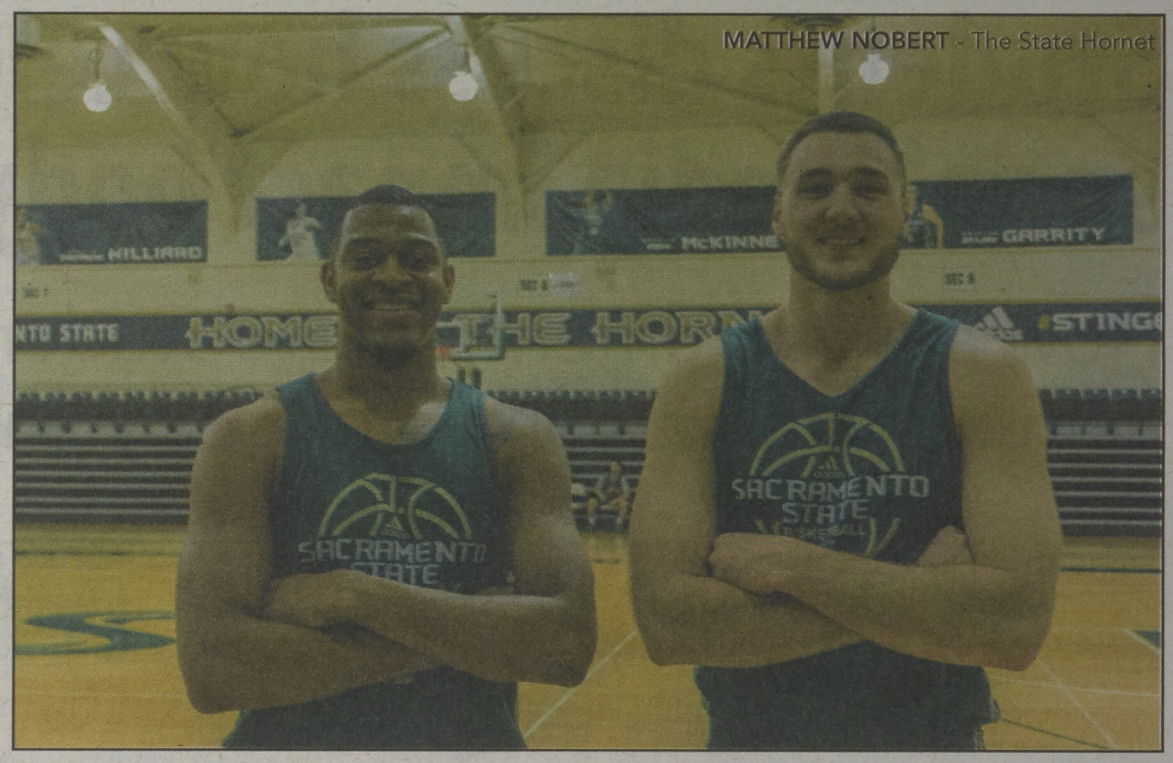
The Sacramento State men's basketball team plays its final two regular-season games on the road against North Dakota on March 2 and Northern Colorado on March 4. Sac State will compete in the Big Sky Tournament in Reno, Nevada on March 7.



MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

Senior big-men tandem leads the frontcourt for Sac State

Hornsby, Stuteville protect the paint for men's basketball team



Noah Alvarez
@SuperNoVa_57

Like the trees on campus, Sacramento State men's basketball seniors Nick Hornsby and Eric Stuteville tower over other competitors with their low-post tandem in the Big Sky Conference.

At 6-foot-11, Stuteville looks over opposing big men and is averaging career highs in field goal percentage (63.8 percent), points per game (12) and rebounds per game (6.3). Starting frontcourt teammate and fellow tri-captain Hornsby stands four inches shorter (6-foot-7), but is posting career highs as well in points per game (10.9), rebounds per game (8.1) and 3-point percentage (37.8).

"Their overall offensive efficiency has improved in every area you want it to," coach Brian Katz said. "In this little stretch where we've won eight of the past 13 games — they have been fairly consistent and I think that is why we've had success recently."



Bottom, Sacramento State men's basketball senior forward Nick Hornsby (33) is posting career highs in points per game (10.9), rebounds (8.1) and 3-point percentage (37.8) in 2016-17. Top, Sacramento State senior center Eric Stutevill, right, is posting career highs in field goal percentage (63.8), points per game (12) and rebounds (6.3) in 2016-17.

Coming out of high school four years ago, both players were raw talents but Katz said he saw the potential that Stuteville and Hornsby could bring to the Hornets.

"Nick had a really great motor and a high activity rate on the court," Katz said. "Eric was clearly tough with some skills down low but both of their skill sets needed to be refined."

Hornsby, who went to Tustin High School, earned first team All-State honors and was ESPN's 20th-ranked recruit in California his senior year. But entering Sac State, Hornsby was tasked with learning a new system and saw few minutes.

"Freshman year I was in learning mode and adjusting to how much faster everything in the college level is," Hornsby said. "Now I'm the guy the younger guys look up to and telling them what to be looking out for."

Stuteville, who attended Casa Roble High School in Orangevale, earned first team All-League and All-Metro honors as a senior. During his first few years as a Hornet, Stuteville received guidance from former standout guards Mikh McKinney (currently a member of the Delaware 87ers in the NBA D-League) and Dylan Garrity.

"Dylan and Mikh really turned it around for us the second half of freshmen year and it carried on to the year after," Stuteville said. "Sophomore year we were a force to be reckoned with in the Big Sky Conference and came one win shy of winning the conference regular-season title."

Stuteville and Hornsby started on the 2014-15 team that finished 21-12 and had high hopes going into their junior season, but the team caught the injury bug and fell short of expectations after finishing 14-17 (6-12 Big Sky) last year.

With two regular-season games remaining on the 2016-17 campaign, the duo has the Hornets muscling through the Big Sky with an 8-8 record and carrying momentum heading into the Big Sky Tournament thanks to their leadership.

"They're both easily as good as any leaders I've ever had," Katz said. "They both went from guys that learn and follow along — to guys that need to lead and they have done a great job."

Sac State freshman forward Joshua Patton credits both Stuteville and Hornsby for the growth on his individual game down low.

"They have helped me work on little things like when to keep my eyes up, when I should pass out, when I should score and how to stay relaxed," Patton said. "On defense, they've helped me with my timing on blocks which is something I like doing."

As the duo's final season comes close to an end, Hornsby and Stuteville find themselves among the all-time leaders in several categories for Sac State's basketball program.

As of press time, Stuteville sits first all-time in games played (121), second all-time in blocks (148), second all-time in double-doubles and is 22 points away from becoming the first center to reach 1,000 points in program history. He will set a new all-time single season record for field percentage if he keeps his — which sits at 63.8 percent — above 62.2 in the final two games.

Hornsby is tied for second in all-time games played (119), third in all-time rebounds (693), eighth in all-time steals (130) and seventh all-time in minutes played (2,886 minutes).

"Every year they've grown as leaders it's been tremendous," Katz said. "They have put together great seasons this year — everything from A to Z. Those guys are as good as big men as you can get around."

Students discuss how celebrities and social media impact body image

How are Sacramento State students affected by pop culture when it comes to body image?

Samantha Leonard
@leonard6797



Social media started out as a way for friends and family to stay in touch across long distances, but has now evolved into a social phenomenon allowing for users of all ages and backgrounds to communicate — for better or for worse.

Social media sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have changed the way people see themselves, and the momentum is not slowing.

What started out as a method for friends and family to stay in touch across long distances has evolved into a social phenomenon that allows users of all ages, locations and backgrounds to communicate and share about their daily lives.

Sacramento State sociology professor Amara Miller provided insight on how the content and the methods in which users absorb this information can affect the way they see themselves.

"I think with this in mind, the question becomes not how does it affect us, but how can we consciously craft our social media use to ensure that (it) has a more positive impact on us, allowing us to feel empowered, informed and confident," said Miller.

Miller wrote her dissertation on the body positivity movement in yoga and said that her research found that members of certain communities were able become empowered. She said they felt "represented, visible and listened to."

She gave the example of a yogi becoming more confident and empowered through Instagram after seeing images of another practitioner with a similar body.

"Fitspiration photos — think 'strong is the new skinny' images — actually have a similar negative effect on a viewer's self-esteem, confidence and motivation that conventional magazine photos of thin models have," Miller said.

> "As with all tools, people need to understand both the advantages and disadvantages — and use it accordingly. (The photos) can be a tool in our own oppression just as (they) can be a powerful tool for our liberation."
>
> **- Amara Miller**
> *Sociology professor*

The difference between use and abuse of a tool depends on the individual, said Miller.

"As with all tools, people need to understand both the advantages and disadvantages — and use it accordingly," Miller said. "(The photos) can be a tool in our own oppression just as (they) can be a powerful tool for our liberation."

The issue of body positivity is one that has been prevalent for a long time, and because most celebrities now use social media, some fans aspire to be like the actors, athletes and public figures that they follow.

Humanities major Hannah Dickenson spoke about how celebrities use social media and how it affects their audiences.

"It's tough because most of the celebrities that post about (body positivity) are already skinny and have the 'ideal' body," Dickenson said. "It's kind of annoying seeing the few plus-size models and celebrities we have being either over-sexualized or end up losing all their weight and suddenly, 'Who knew they were so hot?' Literally everyone."

Dickenson said that celebrities' followers then feel pressured when they see these unattainable images.

"I definitely look at myself and see at least 10 ways I could — and should change my body," she said. "But sometimes I think, 'wait. Why do I need to?'"

While Dickenson acknowledged the challenge of finding the right balance between these platforms, she said that there are positive outcomes like the no-makeup trend some celebrities have been promoting.

"Weight is such a controversial thing in society that it's impossible to win," Dickenson said.

Government-international relations major Linsey Brizuela expressed concerns about men being pressured to obtain the ideal masculine body.

Brizuela cited specific traits like being tall, having a chiseled jaw and abs as what many young men can find extremely daunting. She also commented on the unequal standard men have to live up to in comparison to women.

"Men are not expected to cry or be too emotionally invested because they're expected to 'man up' and 'grow a pair,' " Brizuela said.

Brizuela said that if she were a celebrity, she would use social media to convince people to accept and love some of their characteristics they feel insecure about to help them feel empowered.

"I would take a picture of my-

self and say 'Hey I don't have abs and I don't have a thigh gap. I also have some blemishes on my face and my skin can be oily. My hair can be frizzy too but it's OK: I love my body and this is how I look,' " she said.

Even though most celebrities and public figures are wealthy, famous and popular, some are still subject to hate and discrimination.

"At the end of the day we all know a nude picture gets the higher like/comment ratio than a body positive message," gerontology major Chelsea West said in a text message. "Celebrities who do spread (body positivity) are not in the wrong, but I think a warped self image/self acceptance should be addressed."

Jenna Matyac, a recreation, parks and tourism administration major, spoke about the fine line between the right and wrong way to use social media.

"I think the wrong way of using social media is (when it is) physically or mentally harming others," Matyac said. She also discussed how media and stores like Victoria's Secret "always (promote) the really skinny body type that is on the verge of being unhealthy."

Daria Quintero, a fourth-year criminal justice student, described an incident she witnessed on Instagram in which celebrity Amber Rose posted a photo of herself in a bathing suit. Quintero said the former model received backlash from users who said she was "showing off."

"Some people are on (social media) just for attention," Quintero said, who added that if she were a celebrity, she would use social media to influence her followers to love themselves.

Five ways to LOVE your body

February marked the eighth annual **"Love Your Body"** week at Sac State. The goal of the week-long event was to promote self-love and encourage students to celebrate their unique characteristics. Some students pitched in and offered their own advice to their peers.

Khanlin Rodgers
@TheStateHornet

Don't Compare Yourself to Others

When you're walking around campus, it's really easy to find yourself noticing other people and in turn feel more self-conscious.

"The best thing you can do is focus on the things you like the most about yourself, and eventually, you'll be able to appreciate your flaws as the traits that make you unique," said psychology major Renee Clinton.

Eat a Balanced Diet

"This doesn't necessarily mean to switch to an extremely strict diet, but eating better will not only provide plenty of health benefits — but over time, it will help you learn to respect yourself and your body more," said kinesiology major Amanda Dixon.

Suit Your Style and Personality

"I notice that a lot of people try to follow the latest fashion trends, and that isn't necessarily for everyone," said fashion merchandising and design major Jesse Collins. "Find brands and styles that make you feel happy and comfortable. There's nothing worse than walking into a room and feeling uncomfortable because your clothes don't feel right and it feels like everyone around you is noticing. Find items that fit your body type, and you'll feel much better."

Exercise Whenever You Can

Whether you're going for health benefits or just aesthetics, daily exercise will help you love your body more.

Hannah Silberberg, a Sacramento State alumna and CrossFit instructor, said that "completing a workout will not only help you feel more comfortable with yourself, but it will help promote positive thinking and self-confidence."

Ask for Affirmation

This may sound a little strange to some people, but it is perfectly fine to ask for compliments.

"If you're feeling down about yourself or just aren't having a good day, simply ask a close friend or a family member what they like about you," said psychology major Carlos Amaya. "Their answer can help you appreciate yourself more and remind you that you are a beautiful person — inside and out."

Emojis by EmojiOne



For another way to stay body-positive, listen to music that makes you feel good about yourself. Follow the QR code to The State Hornet's Spotify for a body-happy playlist



CLAIRE MORGAN - The State Hornet

Derek Lynch, left, and Frank Lopes Jr., better known as Hobo Johnson and the Lovemakers, relax in the Oak Park backyard where they produce their music.

SACRAMENTO FALLS IN LOVE WITH THE LOVEMAKERS

MEET THE SELF-DESCRIBED 'GOOD KIDS' BEHIND HOBO JOHNSON

Claire Morgan
@jemapelleclaire

After hours of practicing in a patchy, muddy, backyard on the edge of Oak Park, clad in a flannel and a backward baseball cap, rapper Hobo Johnson may have gotten the big break he was looking for.

Hobo Johnson, whose real name is Frank Lopes Jr., and his bandmate Derek Lynch — the core of Lopes's band the Lovemakers — received an Instagram message from Joseph Pepin of Control Music Group, who manages the likes of indie-pop band Phoenix, Indonesian hip-hop artist Rich Chigga and singer-songwriter Hana Pestle.

The message expressed the company's interest in managing the group, to which they excitedly agreed.

"We posted (our) videos on Facebook and on YouTube," Lopes said. "Somehow, I personally don't believe it but … It took him through some weird YouTube wormhole and it went down to Oak Park, Sacramento."

Since they signed with Control, Lopes and Lynch have had to raise money to buy the tools they need to improve their

"We're good kids — We wouldn't hurt a fly. We mean well. (We're) gentle souls looking to have a good show. (We) just wanna make love and music sometimes."

- Frank Lopes Jr.

Hobo Johnson and the Lovemakers

music.

The pair started a Kickstarter campaign with a goal of $3,000, which was raised within 25 hours. Lopes and Lynch were nervous to set such a high goal, because they did not expect their fans to respond so positively at such a quick rate.

"I wanted to put it at $1500, because I didn't think anyone would want to have anything from us, but they did," Lopes said.

The campaign gained traction quickly and raised over $5,500 by Feb. 26. Lopes and Lynch have decided to use the funds for a re-release of their latest album, "Live From Oak Park."

According to Lopes, the goal of the re-release is to rework some musical aspects of the album. The duo wants to add vocals, cello, violin and saxophone elements as well as their own bass and guitar.

"I wanted to make it a much more musical thing," Lopes said. "The original project was just piano, drums, and my voice, and nothing else. The words are really good, but I want the music to be really good."

Lopes started exploring music as a child, and said that he would make up poems to sing in the shower and rap on his walk home from school.

"I was known as the kid who would walk to school and rap the whole time," Lopes said. "I just always kept it in my mind that it was something I wanted to do."

In high school, Lopes turned to music after selling his PlayStation console. He used the money to buy a microphone and a MIDI controller, which is a device that helps artists translate and manipulate their music.

Ever since, Lopes has been making beats and rapping over them.

"Just recently I became good at rapping — kinda — before I was pretty bad and now I'm not as bad," Lopes said.

For Lynch, learning guitar was what started his journey in music. Eventually he got tired of practicing guitar in his room and branched out by meeting other local artists.

Lynch and Lopes met at an open mic night in Del Paso Heights and became close after another rendezvous at Goldfield Trading Post bar in downtown Sacramento.

"Ever since then we've been kickin' it — it's a merry relationship," Lopes said.

Lopes' and Lynch's goals are to make good music, but also to stay afloat. Lopes describes his end goals among other things as wishing to buy his mother a house and to build his credit.

"Of course I wanna make amazing music, but it's hard to do when you're poor and you don't know what you're going to eat or how you're going to pay rent," Lopes said.

Another goal of Lopes' is to create a production company for other Sacramento artists to be able to create and mix their music without barriers.

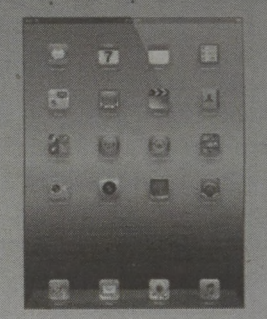
"We're two good kids," Lopes said. "We wouldn't hurt a fly. We mean well. (We're) gentle souls looking to have a good show. (We) just wanna make love and make music sometimes."

INTERESTED IN HOBO JOHNSON?
LISTEN NOW
ON THE OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE
WWW.StateHornet.com

Attention
Freshmen & Seniors

Tell us about your college experiences!
Your responses to the National Survey of Student Engagement will provide important information for improving student success at Sacramento State.

All freshmen and seniors who complete the NSSE Survey will be entered into a drawing for an **Apple iPad**, campus gift cards, as well as a variety of Sac State souvenirs.



Watch your email for an invitation.

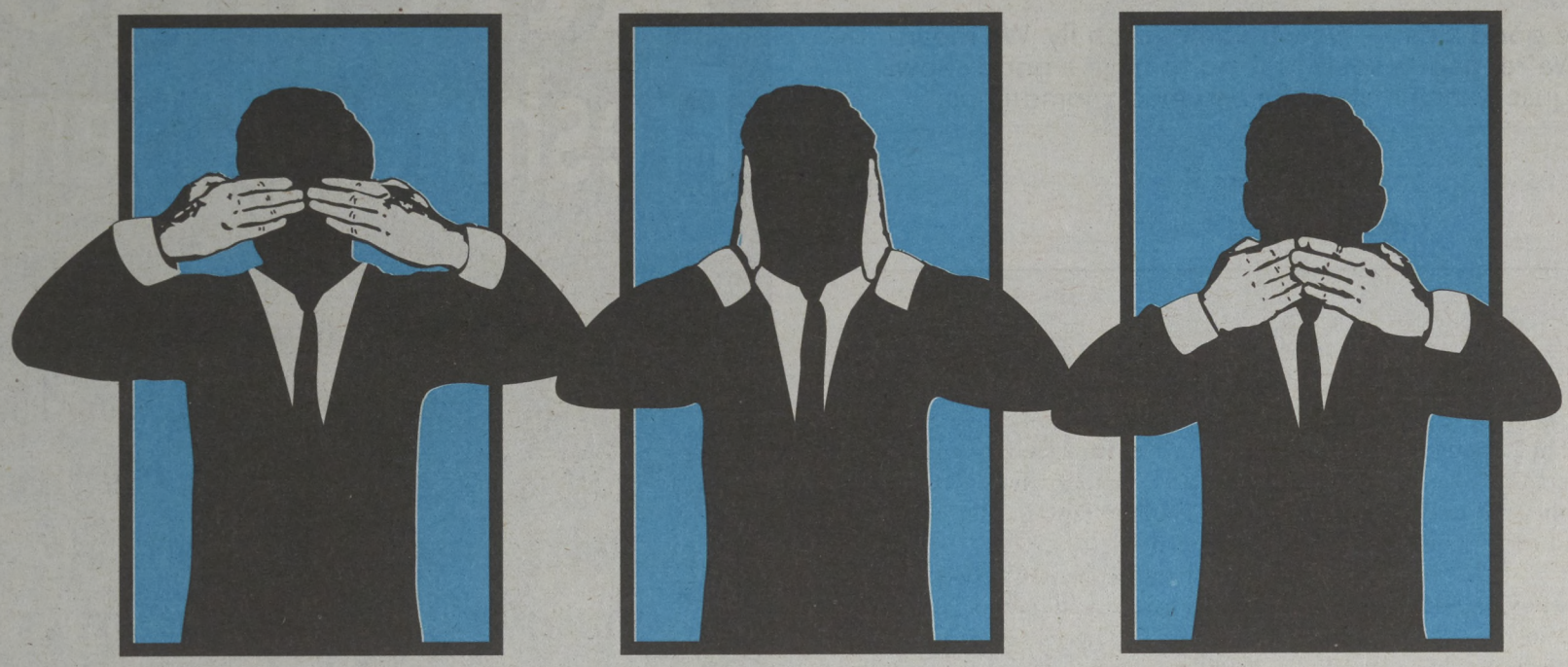
Complete the survey and make your opinion count!

This survey runs from
February 22 - March 31, 2017

This project sponsored by:
The Office of Institutional Research

NSSE
national survey of student engagement

SACRAMENTO STATE
Office of Institutional Research



DAVID RICHARDS - The State Hornet

EDITORIAL: Quit being opaque on health and safety

The administration is (still) not doing everything it can do to be transparent about whether the water on campus is safe, and the drought of information reached the point where a professor and department chair contacted The State Hornet to get the truth of the situation out there.

Jeffery Foran, the environmental studies department chair, revealed that the situation was developing as early as March 2016, when a previously unpublicized study of 30 random water fountains on campus discovered excess levels of lead at several locations — including the ASI Children's Center.

Campus officials said this week that the fountains with lead contamination above the Environmental Protection Agency's bottled water limit of 5 parts per billion were shut off until the "bubblers," or fountainheads that serve as spouts, were replaced. Nevertheless, Foran was told that he could not test there again when he organized the January water test.

"Once we had data that indicated that there was a problem in the child development center, we essentially were told 'That's not a university building, it's a UEI building and ASI runs it,' and we were not allowed to go back in there apparently,' " Foran said. "We were not able to pursue it, so I can't tell you specifically what remedial actions they've taken."

Sacramento State has hired a second consultant after the first one — Alex Spataru — suggested putting filters on all the water fountains on campus, according to Foran.

Foran also said that the filters in the dorms are "not working as they (the administration) hoped" to lower the levels of lead contamination.

In the meantime, the administration has taken over a month to create a timeline and process for testing the final 10 percent of water sources on campus that were not tested in March 2016 or January this year. The school is also not taking any steps to identify which water fountains haven't been tested, though they are scheduled to be tested as of this week.

"In my view, it is not prudent to assume a problem when you don't know one exists," said Jill Parker, the interim senior of risk management services and chief risk officer at Sac State, on Feb. 14. "You're making an assumption, that in this one area, that same set of circumstances would apply to others. That's a pretty big leap."

> "For students, faculty, administration and staff, it is time get angry. Demand answers, demand transparency and demand change. It has been made clear that is what will be required for the university to take this seriously."

Of course, it is close to the definition of prudent to assume there might be a problem with the remaining water sources when the previously-tested ones did end up with levels of lead above the California Public Health Goal, the FDA standard and the EPA action limit.

As we pointed out two weeks ago, the school's highest obligation is to provide a safe atmosphere for education. We know that the school is shirking that sacred, ethical obligation with regard to the 10 percent of water sources that have remained untested this whole time — and with so many unanswered questions we do not know if they are doing that in other ways as well.

Why aren't the exact locations of the untested water sources being publicized?

Why did it take more than a month to arrange for them to be tested?

Why weren't the testing and actions taken in the children's center publicized to assure people about the safety of the children on this campus?

Were those actions successful?

In what ways are the filters that were applied in some dorms not working as intended?

What is the school going to do about that?

Does the university intend in any way to hold itself to the California Public Health Goal, which Foran says is the only responsible level of lead contamination to consider if the priority is campus health?

And perhaps most importantly, why did Sac State insist on not answering questions to the point that the professor who lead the study found it necessary to make himself available to do so?

We understand the difference between a legal obligation and a moral one. It seems that Sac State does too, and has chosen to believe they only need to address the former.

It is no exaggeration to say that this administration — which prides itself on commitment to the health of the environment — has shown that, when an inconvenience was presented, it was even more committed to keeping people in the dark about risks to their own health and keeping even itself in the dark about whether it is letting tainted water flow on this campus.

The flippant lack of transparency and action on the part of Sac State's administration, which betrays the fact that it seems to believe that there will be no consequences to its choices, is only enabled if those of us who are affected don't demand answers. It is far past the time to do so.

So, for students, faculty, administration and staff, it is time get angry. Demand answers, demand transparency and demand change. It has been made clear that is what will be required for the university to take this seriously.

Professor: Climate change science is still up for debate

In a letter to the editor, communications professor Val Smith disputes professor Joseph Palermo's assertion that there is a consensus within the scientific community on climate change

To the Editor:

The State Hornet recently reported that Professor Joseph Palermo appeared on Tucker Carson's Fox News program and that President Nelsen signed an open letter to President Trump. Both supported the Paris Climate Agreement. Combined with Governor Brown's frequent news conferences on the topic, one might assume the climate change debate is over. There are at least three reasons to believe otherwise: (1) "scientific consensus" on climate change requires some qualification, (2) the global warming hypothesis deserves revisiting, and (3) without fossil fuels modern prosperity doesn't exist.

CO2 is not a pollutant; it's plant food. Carbon is the basis of life. We fret over our carbon footprint, yet without carbon there would be no footprints. Want to do your part to reduce atmospheric CO2, stop exhaling the stuff.

Do 96% of scientists all agree man-caused climate change is real? Yes and no. In 2016 the American Meteorological Society surveyed its members. Among the membership, 96% believed climate change is happening, as defined by the AMS. The AMS definition of climate change includes natural external forcing, orbital elements, natural internal processes of the climate system and anthropogenic (man-made) forcing. So how much of the climate change is due to the latter category? The survey found that 29% believed climate change is entirely or largely man-made. Another 38% believed it is mostly man-made. One-third (33%) gave answers of less than "mostly."

If you were born in 1997, the atmospheric content of CO2 during your lifetime has increased from 364 to 404 ppm, yet the trend line for satellite measured global warming over that period remained flat. The climate models failed. The global warming hypothesis was not confirmed. Even climate activist Carl Mears admitted, "there is not much doubt that the rate of warming since the late 1990's is less than that predicted by most of the IPCC AR5 simulations of historical climate." The fact is that not long ago the earth passed through other warming periods. Wine grapes once grew in Scotland, and Vikings built settlements in Greenland.

But in our day prosperity depends upon abundant, cheap, 24/7, scalable energy; think coal, oil, and natural gas. Like your cell phone? You can keep your cell phone, provided that America remains dotted with electronic data centers, each one consuming 100-200 times more electricity per square foot than does a modern office building. Try accomplishing that with those 300-foot bird slicers on the Altamont Pass.

Want to prove that quality of life and fossil fuels are inexorably linked? Google the growth curves for population (in billions of persons), life expectancy (in years), GDP per person (in thousands of 2009 dollars), and CO2 emissions (in billions of metric tons). Put the past 2,000 years on the x axes. You'll see four identical graphs. Coincidence? No, when carbon muscle replaced human muscle, life in the western world vastly improved. If the climate nannies will just leave the developing countries alone for a while the feat will be replicated.

I'm just asking that we not close the debate. Professor Palermo, care to join me in the Union for a public debate? I'm not as handsome as Tucker Carlson, but every bit as fun.

Val R. Smith
Communication Studies

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PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM



Join Us for a Virtual Brown Bag!



Dr. Alexandra Hernandez, Assistant Professor, Global Health faculty at the Touro University California MPH Program will present a talk on ***"Research in Developing Countries."***

When: Tuesday Feb. 28th at noon
Where: On your computer!

Please email Ms. Shruti Kumar (Shruti.kumar@tu.edu) to RSVP. Once you have submitted your RSVP, Ms. Kumar will send you the log in information for the session.

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